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Field Notes - April 22, 1966

Maine Division of Information and Education

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F I E L D N O T E S

APRIL 22, 1966

FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR CHARLES ALLEN, DIV. A, NO. WINDHAM, APRIL 10:

FISHING SEASON GOT OFF TO A SLOW START IN THIS AREA. QUITE A FEW FISHERMEN AROUND THIS PAST WEEK END, THOUGH, MOST OF THEM BEING AT SEBAGO LAKE -- SOME FISH WERE TAKEN. MOST OF THE SALMON WERE REPORTED TO HAVE SMELTS IN THEIR STOMACHS, WHICH IS A VERY GOOD SIGN. WE SHOULD HAVE A GOOD SMELT RUN AT SEBAGO THIS YEAR. THE SMELT RUN HAS STARTED IN SOME PARTS OF YORK COUNTY AND IN OXFORD COUNTY. WITH MORE WARM WEATHER, THE SMELT RUN SHOULD GET UNDERWAY IN GOOD SHAPE IN ANOTHER WEEK. THE DOG-DEER PROBLEM HAS FINALLY QUIETED DOWN. WE HAVE HAD FAR MORE COMPLAINTS THIS YEAR BUT LOST FEWER DEER IN COMPARISON TO OTHER YEARS. DEER ARE SHOWING UP VERY WELL IN THE FIELDS SO, THEREFORE, THE CAR-DEER ACCIDENTS ARE INCREASING. STILL QUITE A LOT OF SNOW IN THE WOODS. WATER LEVELS STILL BELOW NORMAL. BROOKS IN YORK COUNTY LOW FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR. FISH STOCKING WILL START IN YORK COUNTY THIS WEEK. MOST OF THE BROOKS IN THIS SOUTHERN AREA SHOULD BE STOCKED BEFORE THE OPENING DAY, APRIL 30.

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FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR ARTHUR ROGERS, DIV. B, WATERVILLE, APRIL 2:

WARDEN OLIN JACKSON SOUTH CHINA: BROOKS AND STREAMS OPEN BUT VERY FEW FISH BEING TAKEN. IT WILL BE AROUND THE 20TH OF APRIL BEFORE ANY OF THE LAKES GO OUT AROUND THIS AREA. PLENTY OF PEOPLE REPORT DEER COMING OUT IN THE FIELDS NOW. HAD ONE FARMER CALL REPORTING 26 DEER IN ONE FIELD AT VASSALBORO. LOOK FOR GOOD FISHING THIS SPRING DUE TO PLENTY OF WATER IN ALL LAKES -- BETTER THAN LAST YEAR.

WARDEN WINFIELD GORDON, WARREN: RABBIT HUNTERS OUT IN FULL FORCE LAST THREE DAYS OF THE SEASON. A LOT OF HUNTERS BELIEVE THE RABBITS ARE WELL ON THEIR WAY BACK AGAIN. DOGS ARE STILL THE NUMBER-ONE TROUBLE. DEER ARE COMING OUT INTO THE FIELDS AT NIGHT NOW. HAD SEVERAL REPORTS OF DEER BEING SEEN IN THE FIELDS IN WARREN. FISHING WAS OFF TO A SLOW START -- WATER HIGH AND COLD.

WARDEN ORAL D. PAGE, BELGRADE: NOT MUCH BROOK FISHING THE FIRST FEW DAYS. BROOKS ARE HIGH. DOG TROUBLE CONTINUES. DEER ARE SHOWING UP IN THE FIELDS NOW.

WARDEN GEORGE NASH, JEFFERSON: FISHING VERY POOR DUE TO THE COLD, HIGH WATER. DEER COMING INTO THE FIELDS SOME NOW.

MORE

FIELD NOTES/ADD 1

WARDEN WALTER HARRIS, AUGUSTA: LITTLE INTEREST ON THE OPENING DAY OF OPEN WATER FISHING -- NO FISH SEEN. SEVERAL BROWN TROUT REPORTED TAKEN FROM BOND BROOK; ONE WAS 21 INCHES IN LENGTH. ALL LAKES, AND PONDS, AND BROOKS ARE AT SPRING LEVEL NOW. ABOUT ONE-FOOT OF SNOW IN THE WOODS STILL -- MUCH WARM WEATHER REQUIRED TO MELT IT. ICE SHOULD GO OUT ABOUT THE 18TH, WITH FAVORABLE CONDITIONS.

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FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR WALTER BISSET, DIV. C, ELLSWORTH, MARCH 29:

WARDENS IN THIS DIVISION HAVE FOUND 34 DEER KILLED BY DOGS DURING FEBRUARY AND MARCH. GEESE ARE NOW PLENTIFUL ON THE PENOBSCOT RIVER IN WINTERPORT, THE BAGADUCE RIVER IN PENOBSCOT, FRENCHMAN'S BAY AND JORDAN RIVER IN TRENTON AND LAMOINE, AND IN HOG BAY IN FRANKLIN. WOODCOCK ARE BEING REPORTED IN ALL DISTRICTS.

WARDEN INSPECTOR HOMER EDGECOMB, BUCKSPORT: THE WILD DOG PROBLEM IN BROOKS AND KNOX IS JUST ABOUT OVER, THANKS TO WARDEN BASIL CLOSSON OF WINTERPORT. WARDENS LEON GILPATRICK, MILTON SCRIBNER, ROLAND TARR, AND I, ALONG WITH MANY CITIZENS OF THE BROOKS AND KNOX AREA HAVE FAILED TO KILL A SINGLE WILD DOG IN SEVEN WEEKS OF HUNTING THEM.

THESE DOGS ARE EXTREMELY SMART AND CUNNING. MANY TIMES DURING THE LAST SEVEN WEEKS WE WOULD GET CLOSE TO THEM, BUT THEY WERE ALWAYS AWARE OF OUR PRESENCE. THE PACK ROAMED A THREE-SQUARE-MILE AREA, IN WHICH THERE WERE FIVE DEER YARDS. THEY NEVER BARKED WHILE ROAMING THEIR DOMAIN OR WHEN THEY WERE STALKING OR CHASING A DEER. THEY BARKED ONLY WHEN MAKING THE KILL, WHICH TOOK ONLY A FEW MINUTES, AS THEY HAD PLENTY OF EXPERIENCE. MANY TIMES, THE DOGS WOULD USE OUR SNOWSHOE TRAILS FOR EASY GOING IN THE DEEP SNOW.

WE HAVE FOUND TEN DEER KILLED BY THESE DOGS DURING OUR HUNT FOR THEM. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT MANY MORE DEER WERE KILLED BY THE DOGS. EACH TIME WE LOCATED ONE OF THE DOG DENS, WE WOULD SET STEEL TRAPS, BUT TO NO AVAIL, AS THEY NEVER RETURNED TO THAT DEN. THEY WERE ALSO SHY OF ANY TRAPS SET AROUND THE DEER CARCASSES. IN SHORT, THEY SUCCESSFULLY AVOIDED AN AVERAGE OF 10 HUNTERS A DAY AND 60 STEEL TRAPS FOR SEVEN WEEKS.

HOWEVER, THIS IS ALL PAST HISTORY NOW, AS THEY HAVE MET THEIR MATCH IN WARDEN CLOSSON, AND I'M HAPPY TO SAY THEY LOST. HIS KNOWLEDGE OF TRAPPING AND HIS HOMEMADE SCENTS PUT THEM OUT OF BUSINESS. HE ACCOMPLISHED IN ONE WEEK WHAT WE COULDN'T DO IN SEVEN WEEKS.

MUCH CREDIT IS DUE THE RESIDENTS OF BROOKS AND KNOX WHO AIDED US IN THIS EXTENDED HUNT. THEY GAVE MUCH OF THEIR FREE TIME DURING THIS PERIOD AND LOGGED MANY MILES ON SNOWSHOES.

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FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR JOHN SHAW, DIV. E, WILTON, APRIL 11:

WARDEN MARTIN SAVAGE, OQUOSSOC: SMELTS STARTED RUNNING AT MILL BROOK AND UPPER DAM THE 4TH OF APRIL -- THE EARLIEST I HAVE KNOWN THEM TO RUN. THERE WERE 27 SNOW MACHINES AT UPPER DAM ON APRIL 9.

WARDEN LEON AYER, FARMINGTON: A FEW BROWN TROUT ARE BEING TAKEN FROM THE SANDY RIVER AT STRONG, MOSTLY BY THE LOCAL YOUNGSTERS.

MORE

FIELD NOTES/Add 2

FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR DAVID PRIEST, DIV. G, LINCOLN CENTER, MARCH 31:

IT IS BEGINNING TO LOOK AS IF SPRING IS GETTING CLOSE. THE PENOBSCOT RIVER HAS PRETTY WELL OPENED UP AS FAR SOUTH AS PASSADUMKEAG. DUCKS ARE VERY PLENTIFUL AS THEY AWAIT THE WATERS FARTHER NORTH TO OPEN UP.

DOG COMPLAINTS HAVE DROPPED OFF SOMEWHAT, BUT WE ARE STILL GETTING AN OCCASIONAL ONE. ONE FACTOR WHICH HAS HELPED US TREMENDOUSLY IS THE "LEASH LAW," WHICH IS IN FORCE IN WINN, MATTAWAMKEAG, MEDWAY, EAST MILLINOCKET, AND MILLINOCKET. I HOPE MORE TOWNS WILL FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE.

DEER HAVE NOT STARTED TO COME TO THE BARE FIELDS MUCH YET. ICE FISHERMEN WITH SNOWSLEDS ARE STILL ACTIVE ON SOME OF OUR LAKES. WE TAGGED ONLY 482 BEAVER IN THIS DIVISION; THIS IS THE SMALLEST NUMBER WE EVER HAD.

FROM SUPERVISOR PRIEST, APRIL 9:

WE HAVE HAD A RASH OF ILLEGAL HUNTING THIS WEEK. TWO DEER HAVE BEEN SHOT THAT I KNOW OF. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF SHOTS BEING FIRED IN THE NIGHTTIME. THAT OLD STRINGY MEAT MUST MAKE A REAL TASTY SNACK!

FISHERMEN ON THE WEST BRANCH OF PENOBSCOT HAVE BEEN PICKING UP A FEW FISH, MOSTLY SALMON, BUT AN OCCASIONAL TROUT. ELSEWHERE, THEY ARE NOT DOING MUCH. MOST BACK ROADS ARE JUST ABOUT IMPASSABLE NOW, WITH MUD HOLES WHERE THE FROST IS COMING OUT. MANY DUCKS AROUND THIS SPRING.

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FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR WALLACE BARRON, DIV. J, BINGHAM, APRIL 8:

WINTER CONDITIONS PREVAIL OVER ALL THE UPPER DIVISION. WARDENS ARE CUTTING AND HAULING WOOD FOR WARDEN CAMPS AND CRUISING BACK ROADS WITH SNOWSLEDS; SUCH TRAVEL IS EXCELLENT. WE MEASURED 36 TO 45 INCHES OF HEAVY SNOW IN HARDWOOD GROWTH NEAR THE NORTH BRANCH ROAD, NORTH OF THE PITTSTON FARM THIS PAST WEEK.

WARDEN NORMAN HARRIMAN, ROCKWOOD: TOTAL SNOW ACCUMULATION FOR THE WINTER, ACCORDING TO RECORDS KEPT AT BRASSUA DAM, WAS 112.9 INCHES.

WARDEN DONALD WALKER, BINGHAM: FISHING OFF TO A SLOW START, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MACDOUGAL POND, CARATUNK, WHERE TROUT FISHING THROUGH HOLES IN THE ICE WAS FAIR.

FROM SUPERVISOR BARRON, APRIL 14:

THE CANADIANS ARE GETTING WELL UNDERWAY WITH THE SUGAR RUN IN THE NORTH COUNTRY. THE SAP HAS RUN FOR A WEEK, AND SHOULD RUN FOR ANOTHER TWO WEEKS. THERE IS OVER TWO FEET OF SNOW UP THERE. BACK ROADS ARE IN POOR CONDITION AND NOT RECOMMENDED FOR TRAVEL, EXCEPT WHEN FROZEN EARLY IN THE MORNING. WOODCOCK, ROBINS, GEESE, AND DUCKS ARE MOVING INTO THE AREA.